

Eryngium articulatum Hook.

jointed coyote-thistle
Apiaceae (Carrot Family)

Status: State Possible Extirpated

Rank: G5SH

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1961):

Eryngium articulatum is a fibrous-rooted perennial from a short simple crown, 12 to 40 in. (30-100 cm) tall, with spreading flower stalks above, and covered with a bluish waxy coating. The basal petioles are elongate, hollow, and swollen, and often lack leaf blades. The petioles of the stem leaves get progressively shorter towards the top of the plant until they are lacking. The stem leaves are mostly $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1-1/8 in. (1-3 cm) wide, commonly more or less elliptic, and toothed with small spines or remotely fringed with spines. The flower heads are mostly $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (1-1.5 cm) wide, with bluish tinged bracts and calyx lobes, and blue corollas. The calyx lobes are 1/8 in. (3-5 mm) long, and taper to a sharp point that rolls inward. The fruit is ovoid 1/16 in. (2-3 mm) long, densely covered with scales (that are minutely textured with a network of small cavities on the surface), and abruptly tipped by a slender point.

Identification Tips: *Eryngium articulatum* is the only *Eryngium* species in the Pacific NW that bears a blue inflorescence. *E. articulatum* is a conspicuous plant, appearing like a blue thistle (due to the bluish waxy coating and the many spines).

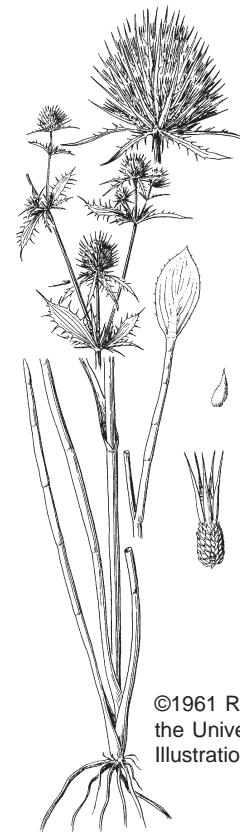
Phenology: This species has been observed in Washington in late July and late August.

Range: This species is known from British Columbia south through Oregon to northern California. It was historically known in Washington from Spokane and Whitman counties, and in Idaho from Lake Coeur d' Alene (where it is apparently no longer extant).

Habitat: In Washington the species has been found in flats along streams, in gravelly beds of streams, and dried up streams from 2340 to 2360 feet (713-719 m) elevation. Elsewhere it has been found on low ground near lakes, often partially submerged. No associated species have been recorded.

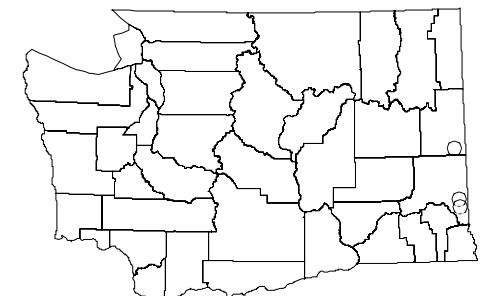
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Known distribution of *Eryngium articulatum* in Washington



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Ecology: Grazing and agriculture have altered most of the streams of eastern Washington, and there may be little appropriate habitat left in the state.

State Status Comments: In Washington this species is only known from one sighting in 1899 and two in 1916. Several surveys throughout its historical range were unsuccessful in finding extant populations.

Inventory Needs: Appropriate habitats in Spokane and Whitman counties should be surveyed for possible individuals.

Threats and Management Concerns: Habitat loss may be linked the species status. No extant individuals have been seen since 1916.

References:

Bjork, Curtis. 2000. Proposed status changes. On file with WNHP.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 614 pp.